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# Shedding Light on Black Budget A13

## Panel Votes to Disclose Annual Spending Figures on Intelligence

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The Senate intelligence committee, which usually keeps its disputes behind closed doors, has voted 10 to 5 to begin disclosing the nation's annual expenditures for intelligence activities.

The proposal, which would take effect next year, would call for official publication of three separate, multibillion-dollar figures: how much the president requests each year; how much Congress authorizes to be spent; and how much was actually spent in the previous fiscal year.

"Public disclosure of the first two of these figures will enable the American people to know how much the executive branch would like to spend each year, and how Congress has dealt with that request," the Senate panel said in its recently issued report on the fiscal 1992 intelligence authorization bill.

"Disclosure of the amount actually spent each year," the committee added, "will enable the American people, in due course, to gain an appreciation of how much of the national treasury has gone to this function of government, as opposed to competing national priorities."

Sponsored by Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), the measure would signal the end of a 15-year fight by proponents who say intelligence spending should comport with the constitutional requirement "that a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

Five Republicans—Sens. John H. Chafee (R.I.), John W. Warner (Va.), John C. Danforth (Mo.), Warren B. Rudman (N.H.) and Slade Gorton (Wash.)—voted no, presaging what may be a tough fight ahead. They voiced fears that disclosure of aggregate figures will not be that enlightening and could lead to damaging revelations.

"The only certain effect this provision will have is to raise innumerable questions that cannot be answered without disclosing classified programs and activities," they said in a rare dissenting report.

Intelligence spending has risen to

about \$30 billion a year, although it may have fallen below that level for the proposed fiscal 1992 budget in light of congressional cuts. The committee said it was recommending "a substantial reduction" in the Bush administration's request.

The cuts, which sources say were directed primarily at the intelligence bureaucracy and spy satellite expenses, were approved by the Senate panel in another split vote, 10 to 4.

The dissenters, Sens. John Glenn (D-Ohio), Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-N.Y.), Chafee and Danforth, protested that "significant reductions

*Five committee Republicans voted against disclosure, presaging what may be a tough fight ahead for the proposal.*

in our intelligence capabilities, particularly during this era of enormous change, are unwise and could be damaging to U.S. national security."

The majority, however, said the dramatic changes in the world during the past two years justified the cutbacks. Reductions in defense manpower and resources, they pointed out, also have had "a significant impact upon U.S. intelligence, forcing renewed attention upon consolidation and streamlining."

Under a provision advocated by Sen. David L. Boren (D-Okla.), the committee chairman, the panel took \$180 million in the savings achieved and earmarked it for a new National Security Education Fund, designed to produce more U.S. graduates specializing in foreign languages and international studies.

Today, the committee said, less than 8 percent of U.S. college students are enrolled in a foreign language course, less than half of what the percentage was in 1960. For-

ign Service officers are not required to know any foreign language when they enter.

The intelligence budget last year included about \$18.6 billion for the National Foreign Intelligence Program (NFIP), covering the CIA, the National Security Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office and related activities, according to informed sources. Between \$11 billion and \$12 billion more was allocated to the military for Tactical Intelligence and Related Activities (TIARA), the sources said.

The committee said it would disclose only a single figure, including NFIP and TIARA, to "minimize any possible risks to the national security." If the proposal is adopted, Congress next year would make public the administration's overall intelligence spending request for fiscal 1993, the amount authorized by Congress, and the total actually spent in fiscal 1991—the last fiscal year for which final amounts would be available.

Other provisions in the bill reflect congressional dissatisfaction with the coordination between military and civilian intelligence during the Persian Gulf War. The committee said it was concerned about the CIA's responsiveness to military needs "in time of crisis and transition to war" and ordered that a general or flag officer be appointed to a new No. 2 post in the CIA's clandestine service as assistant deputy director for operations.

The committee also ordered development of a plan that would give top military intelligence officers for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and regional commands "control of national systems and tasking committees in peacetime to ensure orderly transition during crisis and war."

The first Senate intelligence committee, headed by the late Frank Church (D-Idaho), voted to publish aggregate intelligence spending figures in 1976, but backed down at the last minute under White House pressure, deleting the numbers that had been printed in galley proofs of its final report.

The authorization bill awaits action by the Senate and a conference with the House. The House bill does not call for disclosure.